



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Substitute Bill No. 5635**

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB05635PH\_\_\_\_\_031804\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS AND  
TESTING BY RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) On or before January 1,  
2       2005, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Public Health shall  
3       obtain from the American Association of Medical Assistants, a listing  
4       of all state residents maintained on said organization's registry of  
5       certified medical assistants. The commissioner shall make such listing  
6       available for public inspection.

7       Sec. 2. Section 20-162n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
8       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

9       As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14 and sections 20-162n to  
10      20-162q, inclusive:

11      (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

12      (b) "Respiratory care" means health care under the direction of a  
13      physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 and in accordance with  
14      written protocols developed by said physician, employed in the  
15      therapy, management, rehabilitation, diagnostic evaluation and care of  
16      patients with deficiencies and abnormalities which affect the  
17      cardiopulmonary system and associated aspects of other system

18 functions and which includes the following: (1) The therapeutic and  
 19 diagnostic use of medical gases, administering apparatus,  
 20 humidification and aerosols, administration of drugs and medications  
 21 to the cardiorespiratory systems, ventilatory assistance and ventilatory  
 22 control, postural drainage, chest physiotherapy and breathing  
 23 exercises, respiratory rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
 24 and maintenance of natural airways as well as the insertion and  
 25 maintenance of artificial airways, (2) the specific testing techniques  
 26 employed in respiratory therapy to assist in diagnosis, monitoring,  
 27 treatment and research, including the measurement of ventilatory  
 28 volumes, pressures and flows, specimen collection of blood and other  
 29 materials, pulmonary function testing and hemodynamic and other  
 30 related physiological monitoring of cardiopulmonary systems, [and]  
 31 (3) with appropriate training and education, performance of a purified  
 32 protein derivative test to identify exposure to tuberculosis, and (4)  
 33 patient education in self-care procedures as part of the ongoing  
 34 program of respiratory care of such patient. The practice of respiratory  
 35 therapy is not limited to the hospital setting;

36 (c) "Respiratory care practitioner" means a person who is licensed to  
 37 practice respiratory care in this state pursuant to section 20-162o and  
 38 who may transcribe and implement written and verbal orders for  
 39 respiratory care issued by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter  
 40 370, or a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or an  
 41 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378  
 42 who is functioning within the person's respective scope of practice.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*